

FEBRUARY 13, 1964

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FIRST DEFENSE WITNESS

Oswald panel hears mother

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LEE HARVEY OSWALD, the man accused of assassinating President Kennedy, was defended Feb. 10 for the first time before the Presidential commission investigating the murder. His mother, Mrs. Marguerite Oswald, appeared before the seven-member panel in an effort to prove her son was innocent.

Chief Justice Earl Warren, commission head, said after the first day that Mrs. Oswald's testimony was "helpful," but that it contained "nothing that would change the picture as I see it." The picture, presumably, is that drawn by the FBI in a still-secret report, though portions have been leaked to the press, alleging that Oswald was the "lone and unaided gunman" who assassinated the President.

Mrs. Oswald, appearing with a court-appointed lawyer, spent the first day discussing her son's history and their personal relationship. She promised to return with information that would contradict the official belief that Oswald was guilty.

LANE PRESENT: On Feb. 11 Mrs. Oswald again presented evidence after discussing it with the commission counsel and attorney Mark Lane. Lane had flown to Washington from San Francisco, where he had been on a speaking tour under auspices of the GUARDIAN and other groups.

Since Mrs. Oswald was represented by John F. Doyle of Washington, Lane did not appear officially before the commission, but submitted in writing two questions which she answered.

One concerned the nature of her confinement at a motel in Texas. At one point, she said, she sought to leave the motel and was escorted back to her room, with a Secret Service man holding her by each arm.

THE GUN: The second question con-

cerned her discussion with Marina about Marina's questioning by the Dallas police Nov. 22 soon after Lee Oswald's arrest. She said Marina told her she was asked whether her husband had a gun. She answered in the affirmative. Then, when shown the alleged murder weapon, she was asked whether this was her husband's gun. Marina said, according to Mrs. Oswald: "I do not think that that is Lee's gun."

After his quick trip to Washington, Lane flew to Los Angeles for a meeting. He had spoken to 900 persons at a San Francisco meeting sponsored by the GUARDIAN Feb. 6 and to 1,000 students at an assembly at the University of California at Berkeley Feb. 10. Further speaking arrangements were scheduled for San

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